

In the Claims

1. **(currently amended)** A platelet-like pigment whose particles have a length of from 2 μm to 5 μm , a width of from 2 μm to 2 μm and a thickness of from 50 nm to 1.5 μm and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, the particles having a core of a metallicity reflecting material having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, comprising

(a), optionally, on one parallel face of the core, an SiO_y layer wherein $0.95 < y \leq 2.0$,

(b), on one parallel face of the core or, if an SiO_y layer is present, on the SiO_y layer, an SiO_x layer wherein $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$, and

(c), on the SiO_x layer, an SiO_z layer, wherein $0.95 < z \leq 2.0$

wherein the metallicity reflecting material is selected from Ag, Al, Au, Cu, Cr, Ge, Mo, Ni, Ti, Zn, alloys thereof, graphite, Fe_2O_3 and MoS_2 and the thickness of the core is from 20 to 100 nm.

2. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, comprising

(a), optionally, on one parallel face of the core, an SiO_y layer, wherein $0.95 < y \leq 1.80$,

(b), on one parallel face of the core or, if an SiO_y layer is present, on the SiO_y layer, an SiO_x layer wherein $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$, and

(c), on the SiO_x layer, an SiO_z layer, wherein $1.0 < z \leq 2.0$.

3-4. **(cancelled)**

5. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_x layer (b) is from 5 to 200 nm.

6. **(previously presented)** A pigment according claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.

7. **currently amended** A method for producing the pigment according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- a) ~~vapeur~~vapor-deposition of a separating agent onto a carrier to produce a separating agent layer,
- b) ~~vapeur~~vapor-deposition of an Al layer onto the separating agent layer,
- c) optionally, ~~vapeur~~vapor-deposition of an SiO_y layer onto the Al layer,

- d) ~~vapeur~~vapor-deposition of an SiO_x layer onto the Al layer or, if present, onto the SiO_y layer, wherein $0.95 \leq y \leq 1.80$,
- e) optionally, ~~vapeur~~vapor-deposition of an SiO_y layer onto the SiO_x layer,
- f) dissolution of the separating agent layer in a solvent,
- g) separation of the SiO_x -coated ~~aluminium~~aluminum flakes from the solvent.

8. **(previously presented)** A pigment obtained by the method of claim 7.

9. **(previously presented)** A composition comprising a pigment according to claim 1.

10. **(previously presented)** A paint, textile, ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating, plastic, or printing ink composition or a glaze for ceramics and glass comprising a pigment according to claim 1.

11. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.5$.

12. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$, and $1.4 \leq z \leq 2.0$.

13. **(currently amended)** A pigment according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the thickness of the core is from 40 to 60 nm.

14. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_x layer (b) is from 5 to 100 nm.

15. **(cancelled)**

16. **(previously presented)** A pigment according claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 100 to 500

17. **(cancelled)**

18. **(previously presented)** A pigment according claim 5, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.

19. **(previously presented)** A method according to claim 7, wherein $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$.

20. **(cancelled)**